

The power from the above projects is likely to be available progressively in the next 4-5 years.

Vacancy based Roster in the Ministry of Power

1251. VENBLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court in case of R. K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab has held that the Vacancy Based Rosters can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation; and

(b) if so, indicate the services/posts under Ministry of Power and all its subordinate offices where the representation of persons belonging to the SC/ST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation and because of which "Post Based Rosters" have been introduced in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The post-based rosters are introduced in place of vacancy based rosters as per the directives contained in the Department of Personnel and Training's Office Memorandum No.36012/2/96-Estt (Res) dated 2.7.1997. The post-based roster is a mechanism to ensure that the reserved categories get their due share of posts upto the prescribed percentages of reservation for the concerned categories in line with the principles enunciated in the Supreme Court Judgement in R. K. Sabharwal case.

As a result, all the organizations including PSUs except Bhakra Beas Management Board (which follows Punjab State Government's reservation rules) under the administrative control of Ministry of Power have introduced Post based reservation rosters in Groups A, B, C and D services.

Setting up a hydro electric project

1252. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC is proposing to set up a hydro electric project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has permitted the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to implement hydro projects to improve hydro thermal mix in the country for better peak load management and optimum utilisation of hydro resources. NTPC has entered into an agreement with the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board for construction and operation of the 800 MW Kol Dam-Hydro-Electric Power Project. NTPC has already initiated work on the development of the project.

Honouring the Counter Guarantee by Government

1253. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have honoured its counter guarantee in respect of non-payment of dues by Maharashtra State Electricity Board to the Enron-promoted Dabhol Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the extent of such counter guarantee borne by the Government of India and whether it will also fulfil such guarantee in case of MSEB further default in payment of dues to the Dabhol Power Corporation; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid this crisis permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) M/s Dabhol Power Company (DPC) on 25.1.2001, invoked the Guarantee given by Government of Maharashtra (GOM) for recovery of an outstanding sum of around Rs. 89 crores towards the bill raised by DPC on Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) pertaining to November, 2000. Due to failure by GOM, as the primary guarantor, to make the said payments, DPC also invoked the guarantee given by Government of India (GOI) by placing a demand under the provisions of the said GOI guarantee for recovery of the outstanding dues from MSEB pertaining to the bill for November, 2000. However, MSEB have since paid the outstanding dues to DPC towards the bill for November, 2000 and, therefore, the need for making any payments to DPC under the Government of India guarantee did not arise. Under the provisions of the counter guarantee, the GOI is obliged to make payment to DPC in default of payment by MSEB and GOM. The liability of GOI is limited to Rs. 1500 crores (subject to suitable adjustments on account of inflation etc.) in a financial year towards payment of capacity and energy payment and aggregate of all principal